

# HOGAN & HARTSON

L.L.P.

DAVID L. SIERADZKI  
PARTNER  
(202) 637-6462  
DLSIERADZKI@HHLAW.COM

COLUMBIA SQUARE  
555 THIRTEENTH STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-1109  
TEL (202) 637-5600  
FAX (202) 637-5910  
WWW.HHLAW.COM

September 30, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; CC Docket No. 96-45;  
Applications of Sprint Corp. for Designation as an Eligible  
Telecommunications Carrier in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, New York,  
North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Sprint Nextel Corporation (“Sprint Nextel”) hereby submits the information required in the *Sprint ETC Designation Order*, in which the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau designated the company as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. <sup>1/</sup> Sprint Nextel is submitting two versions of this letter: (i) a confidential version with attachments containing confidential trade secret information that we request be withheld from public inspection pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 0.459; and (ii) a redacted version, consisting of this identical cover letter but omitting the confidential attachments.

The *Sprint ETC Designation Order* requires the company to submit the following information on October 1, 2005: “(1) its progress towards meeting its build-out plans; (2) the number of complaints per 1,000 handsets; and (3) how many requests for service from potential customers were unfulfilled for the past year.” *Sprint ETC Designation Order*, ¶ 21. Sprint Nextel respectfully submits the following information to satisfy this requirement.

1. The first attached confidential spreadsheet demonstrates the company’s progress toward meeting the build-out plans that it reported to the Commission in its

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<sup>1/</sup> *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Sprint Corporation, Applications for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia*, 20 FCC Rcd 22663 (Wireless Tel. Bur. 2004) (“*Sprint ETC Designation Order*”).

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November 4, 2004 submission. Specifically, during the period from November 18, 2004 through June 30, 2005, Sprint Corporation's Wireless Division (referred to as "Sprint") <sup>2/</sup> expended over \$70 million on new cell sites and over \$8 million on cell site upgrades in the seven states for which it received ETC designation from the FCC (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia). During the same time period, Sprint received a total of less than \$9.8 million in federal high-cost universal service support for those states. The first confidential attachment is a spreadsheet including detailed information regarding Sprint's progress with respect to each of the individual cell site locations specified in the confidential attachment to the November 4, 2004 letter.

2. During the period from November 18, 2004 through June 30, 2005, Sprint received, on average, 0.15 consumer complaints each month per 1,000 handsets in the seven states for which it received ETC designation from the FCC. (Note that this probably overstates the total number of cases because consumers often direct a single complaint to more than one entity, such as a Better Business Bureau, a state agency, or the FCC. When they do so, Sprint assigns a separate case number to each recipient for tracking purposes, thereby creating duplicative records of that one customer's complaint.) The second confidential attachment provides more detailed data regarding consumer complaints.

3. Sprint Nextel is unaware of any instances in which a potential customer, residing in the portions of the seven states for which the company was designated as an ETC, requested service and that request went unfulfilled during the period from November 18, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Sieradzki  
Counsel for Sprint Nextel Corporation

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<sup>2/</sup> Sprint Nextel was formed through the merger of Sprint Corp. and Nextel Communications Inc., which was consummated on Aug. 12, 2005, subsequent to the period of time covered by this report. The information reported herein pertains only to Sprint, and excludes pre-merger Nextel data.

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Enclosures (not included in redacted version)

cc: Narda Jones, WCB  
Mark Seifert  
Pam Slipakoff  
Jeffrey Steinberg, WTB  
Frank Stilwell